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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	8836-115 (IB8154-US)
First Inventor or Application Identifier	PARK
Title	AN APPARATUS FOR REMOVING ECHO FROM ....
Express Mail Label No.	EL433928448US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS
See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

1. [X] * **Fee Transmittal Form** *(e.g., PTO/SB/17)*
   (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)

2. [X] **Specification** [Total Pages 19]
   (preferred arrangement set forth below)
   - Descriptive title of the Invention
   - Cross References to Related Applications
   - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
   - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
   - Background of the Invention
   - Brief Summary of the Invention
   - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
   - Detailed Description
   - Claim(s)
   - Abstract of the Disclosure

3. [X] **Drawing(s)** *(35 U.S.C. 113)* [Total Sheets 6]

4. **Oath or Declaration** [Total Pages 2]

   a. [X] Newly executed (original or copy)

   b. [ ] Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
   (for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)

   i. [ ] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
   Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

5. [ ] Microfiche Computer Program *(Appendix)*

6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all necessary)*
   a. [ ] Computer Readable Copy
   b. [ ] Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
   c. [ ] Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. [X] Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))

8. [ ] 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) Statement *(when there is an assignee)* [X] Power of Attorney

9. [ ] English Translation Document *(if applicable)*

10. [ ] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [ ] Copies of IDS Citations

11. [ ] Preliminary Amendment

12. [X] Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) *(Should be specifically itemized)*

13. [ ] * Small Entity Statement(s) (PTO/SB/09-12) [ ] Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired

14. [X] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*

15. [X] Other: Two checks in the sum of: $838.00 and $40.00

16. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:
   [ ] Continuation [ ] Divisional [ ] Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____/_____

   Prior application information: Examiner _____ Group / Art Unit: _____

   For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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Atty. Docket No. <u>8836-115 (IB8154-US)</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

UTILITY APPLICATION FEE TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): <u>Tae-San PARK</u>

For: <u>AN APPARATUS FOR REMOVING ECHO FROM SPEECH</u>
<u>SIGNALS WITH VARIABLE RATE</u>

Enclosed are:

[X] <u>14</u> page(s) of specification

[X] <u>1</u> page(s) of Abstract

[X] <u>4</u> page(s) of claims

[X] <u>6</u> sheets of drawings [X] formal [ ] informal

[X] <u>2</u> page(s) of Declaration and Power of Attorney

[X] An Assignment of the invention to:
<u>Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.</u>

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date <u>October 7, 1999</u> in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number <u>EL433928448US</u> addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

<u>Frank Chau</u>
(Type or print name of person mailing paper)

(Signature of person mailing paper)

[ ] This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C.
§119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s).:

APPLICATION NO(S).:   FILING DATE

__/_____   _____

__/_____   _____

[X] Certified copy of applications

Country	Appln. No.	Filed
Korea	98-42803	13 October 1998

from which priority under Title 35 United States Code, § 119
is claimed
        [X] is enclosed.

        [ ] will follow.

CALCULATION OF UTILITY APPLICATION FEE

For	Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee $760.00
Total Claims*	13	-20 =	0	x $ 18.00	$ 0.00
Independent Claims	4	-3 =	1	x $ 78.00	$ 78.00
Multiple Dependent	[ ] yes	Add'l. Fee	$260.00		$
Claims	[X] no	Add'l. Fee	None	=	$

                                          TOTAL $838.00

[ ] Verified Statement of "Small Entity" Status Under 37
    C.F.R. § 1.27. Reduced fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f)
    (50% of total) paid herewith $_____.

_____
    *Includes all independent and single dependent claims and all claims referred to in multiple claims
See 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c).

[X]   A check in the amount of $40.00 is enclosed for recording
      the attached Assignment.

[X]   A check in the amount of $838.00 to cover the filing fee is
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[ ]   Charge fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0679. Order No.
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Date: October 7, 1999   _____
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AN APPARATUS FOR REMOVING ECHO FROM

SPEECH SIGNALS WITH VARIABLE RATE

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an echo canceler of a variable rate vocoder, and more particularly to an echo canceler and a method for preventing undesirable disturbance of converged filter coefficients.

Background of the Invention

Echo cancelers have recently gained importance with the increased usage of CDMA (code division multiple access) in mobile telephony. Echo signals are present in a digital telephone connection. The echo signals distort or disturb speech signals generated from the two ends of the connection. Echo cancelers are used to cancel the echo signals. However, a long delay time is necessary in such cancellation. The delay time required to cancel the echo signal by the echo canceler is called 'convergence time'. The convergence time of the echo canceler is an important parameter for measurement of the quality of the echo canceler. The smaller the convergence time, the closer is the reproduction of the original sound.

Adaptive algorithms are used in echo cancelers. One popular algorithm is the NLMS (normalized least mean square) algorithm. A filter is used to cover practically all occurrences of impulse responses. A filter output signal is conventionally subtracted from the signal containing an echo, thereby forming a different signal used to update the filter. U. S. Patent No. 5,428,605

describes a prior art echo canceler and it is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

A plurality of filters 14_1-14_N for canceling out an echo signal are connected in cascade between two lines RX and TX included in a four-wire loop. The echo signal emerges in an echo path 12 from speech signals of a called person or a calling person of a telephone call connection.

5 The filters 14_1-14_N act as a digital adaptive filter. They receive an input signal X through a line RX. The input signal X is applied to the echo path 12.

An echo signal is decided through each of output signals Y_1-Y_N of the filters 14_1-14_N. An echo signal is cancelled from an echo-included signal D through subtraction means 24. Consequently, each of the subtraction means outputs each of difference signals E_1-E_N. The filters

10 14_1-14_N update filter coefficients with correspondence to an adaptive algorithm by receiving the different signals E_1-E_N.

The filters 14_1-14_N receive the input signal X and then generate the output signals Y_1-Y_N, respectively. The output signals Y_1-Y_N are applied to a plurality of selectable switches 16_1-16_N. The switches 16_1-16_N are connected to subtraction means 18_1-18_N, respectively. That is, the

15 switches 16_1-16_N are connected to negative input terminals of the subtraction means 18_1-18_N, respectively. Positive input terminals of the subtraction means 18_1-18_N receive an echo-reduced signal 26 which is obtained by reducing the echo signal from the echo-included signal D. The switches 16_1-16_N also receive selective signals S_1-S_N, respectively. Accordingly, the subtraction means 18_1-18_N output the different signals E_1-E_N, respectively. The selective signals S_1-S_N are

20 generated from a switch control circuit 30 shown in Fig. 2 to select at least one of the filters 14_1-14_N. The switch control circuits 30 will be described hereafter. An output signal Y_N of a filter to which corresponding switch is connected to the right side output terminal is not used to cancel an echo signal. However, the output signal Y_N is used to output an error signal E_N which is in turn

used to update the filter.

An error signal is a difference between the echo-reduced signal 26 and a filter output signal provided through a switch which is switched to its right side output terminal. For example, error signals E_2 and E_N in Fig. 1 are such error signals.

5   In the initial stage of a converging process such as the beginning of a new telephone call, all switches are switched to the switching terminals on the right side. The following error signals are thereby obtained: $E_1=D-Y_1$, $E_2=D-Y_2$, ---,$E_N=D-Y_N$. This is resulted from an equal supply of the echo-included signal D to the positive input terminals of the subtraction means 18_1-18_N in the initial stage, respectively. This signal is called an echo-reduced signal E_{TOT}.

10   In the initial stage (that is, before enabling filters to use actively to cancel an echo), the filters adjust in an endeavor to cancel the total echo signal. In this case, the filters are converged into a certain level, respectively. Since a filter among the cascade-connected filters is generally disturbed by some part of the total echo signal, the echo signal is actually canceled by one and more filters of the other filters.

The quality measurement of an adaptive filter is continuously calculated in order to be able to establish which filters perform useful work. In other words, the quality measurements and values are used to form switch control signals. When the quality measurement of a filter exceeds a predetermined value, the filter renders the corresponding switch switched to its left switching position.

20   When the measurement resultant is lower than the predetermined value, the filter is disabled so as for the corresponding switch to be switched to its right switching position. An output signal of the filter is added in an adding means to other output signals of the filter which are added in other adding means, respectively. The resultant summation signal is subtracted from

the echo-included signal D in subtraction means 24. For example, the filters 14_1-14_{N-1} are enabled

to reduce the echo signal appeared in the echo-included signal D. An output signal of the enabled

filter is summed to be Y_1+Y_{N-1}, and an echo-reduced signal E_{TOT} becomes equal to: D-$(Y_1$+$Y_{N-1})$.

These are subtracted from the echo-included signal D by a plurality of cascade-connected

5   subtraction means, respectively.

Since the output signals of the enabled filters do not appear on the input signals of the

subtraction means, all enabled filters will obtain error signals equally as large as the echo-

reduced signal E_{TOT}. The error signal of the disabled filter is equal to the echo-reduced signal

E_{TOT} decreased by the output signal of the filter. In the illustrated example, the [Equation 1] is

10   obtained:

[Equation 1]

$E_1 = E_{TOT} - Y_1 = D - (Y_1 + Y_{N-1})$

$E_2 = E_{TOT} - Y_2 = D - (Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_{N-1})$

$E_N = E_{TOT} - Y_N = D - (Y_1 + Y_{N-1} + Y_N)$

Therefore, when a filter is enabled, its output signal will be used to update the remaining

filters. It is the fact that every enabled filter receives large error signals. Every error signal of

20   these filters can be caused to go down to logic 0 or to the vicinity of logic 0 by effectively

canceling the echo signal. Accordingly, none of the filters will be disturbed by any part of the

total echo that shall be canceled by other filters.

Fig. 2 illustrates an arrangement of a switch control circuit generating a switch control

signal illustrated in Fig. 1. Referring to Fig. 2, the switch control circuit 30 is required for each

filter 14_1-14_N included in the echo canceler 10.

The echo-reduced signal E_{TOT}, the filter output signal Y_N, and the filter error signal E_N are applied to the switch control circuit. Some signals are generated from absolute magnitude forming means 32_1, 32_2, and 32_3. Each of the signals is then filtered in its respective lowpass filter means (LPF) 34_1, 34_2, and 34_3. Signals deriving from the echo-reduced signal E_{TOT} and the filter output signal Y_N are multiplied in a multiplier 36, so that a signal $|E_{TOT}|*|Y_N|$ is generated. A signal deriving from a lowpass filter 34_3 of the filter error signal E_N is squared in a quadrating means 38, so that a signal $|E_N|*|E_N|$ is generated.

The signal from the multiplier 36 is divided by the signal from the quadrating means 38 in a division means 40. The quality measurement Q_N is generated from the division means 40 and its equation is as follows:

[Equation 2]

$$Q_N = (|E_{TOT}|/|E_N|)*(|Y_N|/|E_N|) = (|E_{TOT}|*|Y_N|)/(E_N*E_N)$$

According to [Equation 2], the quality measurement Q_N is proportioned to the output signal Y_N. When the quality measurement Q_N exceeds a first threshold value Tr1, the switch control signal S_N goes to logic 1. When the quality measurement Q_N becomes lower than a second threshold value Tr2, the switch control signal S_N goes to logic 0. In this case, when the switch control signal S_N is logic 1, the switch is connected to its left switching position.

The quality measurement Q_N is used as input signals of a first comparator 42_1 and a second comparator 42_2. That is, the quality measurement Q_N is compared in the first comparator 42_1 with the first threshold value Tr1 of the filter enabled, while in the second comparator 42_2

with the second threshold value Tr2 of the filter disabled. Successively, output signals of the comparators 42_1 and 42_2 are respectively inputted to a logic means 44 which generates the switching control signal S_N which is delivered to the filter. For example, the logic means 44 generates logic 1 when the filter shall be enabled, and logic 0 is generated when the filter shall be disabled.

The quality measurement Q_N which is able to cancel the greatest echo will be the first filter to exceed the first threshold value Tr1. This is why the first filter has a relatively large output signal and a relatively small error signal. As a result of enabling or coupling to the first filter, the error signals for the remaining filters will be reduced by the value of the output signal of the enabled filter, since this output signal is subtracted from the echo-included signal in the subtraction means. The quality measurement of remaining filter will increase therewith.

Further, the error signals of the filters that are not enabled will be also reduced for each new filter which is enabled after the first enabled filter. Consequently, the smaller echo will be initially hidden by the larger echoes. No significant work can be performed by the filters. That is, the only small echo signals can be canceled by the filters. The input signal, however, is so small that its quality measurement cannot exceed the filter enabling threshold value Tr1. The foregoing filters will never be enabled.

When a filter is enabled, its quality measurement will be slightly reduced. This results from the fact that the signal E_{TOT} is reduced by the filter output signal.

A filter coefficient will be converged when an echo signal is generated by the speech signal including an echo signal from an opposite person. Further, the filter coefficient will be disturbed by the speech signal including the echo signal from a user himself.

As mentioned above, the echo canceler may repeat the convergence and disturbance of

the filter coefficient. As a result, it takes long time to update unnecessary filter coefficient each time.

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide an echo canceler with functions as follows:

(1) to prevent a speech signal including an echo signal from a user himself from disturbing a converged filter coefficient;

(2) to reduce performing time in a position where an echo signal is highly delayed; and

(3) to efficiently converge a filter coefficient.

According to a feature of this invention, an echo canceler comprises a plurality of cascade-connected adaptive filters, an update control means generating an update signal for updating filter coefficients of the filters in correspondence with the power of each opposite speech signal from the filters, and a subtraction means generating each of error signals to the update control means after receiving each of output signals from the filters and then canceling echo signals from echo-included signals. Herein, the update control means and the subtraction means are respectively equipped in correspondence with the filters.

In a preferred embodiment of this invention, the update control means generates the update signal by which a filter coefficient of its filter is updated when the power is larger than a threshold value of the filter, whereas the filter coefficient is not updated when the power is smaller than the threshold value.

In the preferred embodiment of this invention, the update control means comprises a comparator receiving and then comparing the power and the threshold value, and a logic circuit

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generating a signal for updating the filter coefficient when both an output signal of the comparator and the error signal are received and then activated.

According to another feature of this invention, an echo canceler comprises a plurality of cascade-connected adaptive filters, a selective means for generating a selective signal for updating filter coefficients of the filters in correspondence with each opposite speech signal from the filters, an update control means for updating the filter coefficient when the selective signal is received and then activated, and a subtraction means for generating each of error signals to the update control means by receiving each of output signals from the filters and then canceling echo signals from echo-included signals. Herein, the update control means and the subtraction means are respectively equipped in correspondence with the filters.

In another preferred embodiment of this invention, the update control means includes a logic circuit for updating a filter coefficient when the error signal and the selective signal are received and then activated.

In another preferred embodiment of this invention, the selective means controls the number of the selective signals in correspondence with the performing speed of the filters. Herein, a selective signal makes an update control means enabled.

According to the present invention, it is decided whether a filter coefficient will be updated or not by enabling or disabling an update control circuit by means of a power value of an opposite speech signal from an adaptive filter.

Further, an update control circuit is controlled in order to adjust the update of a filter coefficient by equipping an update control selective circuit which generates a selective signal for enabling or disabling the update control circuit by receiving the opposite speech signal from the adaptive filter. An echo signal calculated from each of filters is canceled from an echo-included

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signal generated through an echo path.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig.1 is a block diagram illustrating an arrangement of a conventional echo canceler;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an arrangement of a selective circuit generating a switch selective signal illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an arrangement of an echo canceler according to a first preferred embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 4 a block diagram illustrating an arrangement of an update control circuit illustrated in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a block diagram illustrating an arrangement of an echo canceler according to another preferred embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram illustrating an arrangement of an update control selective circuit illustrated in Fig. 5; and

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a control selective circuit illustrated in Fig. 7.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

Hereinafter, the preferred embodiments of this invention will be described in detail with reference to accompanying drawings.

An echo canceler of the present invention includes between two lines included in a four-wire loop a plurality of filters for canceling echo signals. Since the echo signals may have different echo signal delay time depending upon circumstances, the number of taps in the echo canceler will be decided by the circumstances. If decided, the number of taps is allotted to a

plurality of adaptive filters.

The allotting method may be 1/N(the number of a filter). Also, various allotting methods may be adopted depending on what filter cancels echo components, and when the echo components are canceled. For example, assuming that sampling frequency is 8 KHz, the number of the adaptive filter is four, and echo signal delay time is 32 ms, then, a first adaptive filter cancels an echo signal of 0-8 ms, a second adaptive filter cancels an echo signal of 8-20 ms, a third adaptive filter cancels an echo signal of 20-28 nm, and a fourth adaptive filter cancels an echo signal of 28-32 ms. In this case, the number of each tap may be defined as 64, 96, 64, and 32 (total: 128 taps).

Referring to Fig. 3, the echo canceler 100 comprises a plurality of cascade-connected adaptive filters 102_1-102_N, a plurality of update control circuits 104_1-104_N each corresponding to each of the filters, a plurality of subtraction circuits 108_1-108_N each corresponding to each of the filters, and an echo path 106 where echo signal emerges.

The adaptive filters 102_1-102_N calculate an echo signal by receiving an input signal X (that is, a speech signal of a phone user himself or a speech signal from the person at the other end of the call ("an opposite speech signal"), and an echo signal). Afterwards, calculated output signals Y_1-Y_N are canceled from an echo-included signal D generated from the echo path 106. Thereby, an echo signal is canceled. Filter coefficients of these filters 102_1-102_N are updated by receiving update signals corresponding to error signals E_1-E_N from the update control circuits 104_1-104_N. As shown in Fig. 3, an error signal is corresponding to an update signal. The update control circuits 104_1-104_N respectively receive power values P_1-P_N of the opposite speech signal from the adaptive filters 102_1-102_N and the error signals E_1-E_N from the subtraction circuits 108_1-108_N, and activate or inactivate the update signals depending on the power values P_1-P_N.

Referring to Fig. 4, an update control circuit 104_N comprises a comparator and an AND gate. The comparator receives a power value **P** on a non-inverting terminal and a threshold value TR on an inverting terminal. The AND gate receives output of the comparator and an error signal E_N and generates an update signal E_N. When the power value **P** of the opposite speech signal is larger than the threshold value TR, the update control circuit 104_N generates the update signal, thereby, updating a filter coefficient of an adaptive filter shown in Fig. 3. When the power value **P** is smaller than the threshold value TR, the update signal is disabled to omit updating the adaptive filter coefficient.

Referring to Fig. 3 again, each of the subtraction circuits 108_1-108_N cancels each of the calculated echo signals (that is, output signals Y_1-Y_N) of filters 102_1-102_N from the echo-included signal D. The resultant error signals E_1-E_N are applied to the update control circuits 104_1-104_N, respectively. Each of the adaptive filters 102_1-102_N, therefore, cancel echo components in a predetermined time period after generation of the opposite speech signal through a speaker of a portable telephone. That is, only when a filter coefficient need be updated, the filter coefficient is updated by an update control circuit 104_N.

By using an NLMS (normalized least mean square) algorithm, a filter coefficient **mu** is obtained as follows:

[Equation 3]

$$mu = (2*\mu*e) / P$$

$$\Delta H = mu*x$$

$$H = H + \Delta H$$

In the [Equation 3], "μ" is a constant, power value **P** is a magnitude in a random interval of the opposite speech signal, "e" is a filter error signal E_N, and "H" is a convergence constant. In particular, the filter error signal e is obtained by subtracting an output signal Y_N from an echo-included signal D of a user's speech signal. For example, if there is only the speech signal of the

5   user, the filter coefficient should be not altered. The "P" is small and the "e" is large, thereby increasing "*mu*". Consequently, the "ΔH" is altered to exert a bad influence upon the convergence. If there is the opposite speech signal, the "**P**" is large and in inverse proportion to "*mu*". However, the "e" is proportion to the "*mu*". Since the filter coefficient moves to the convergence direction, it will be continuously updated.

10   In case of a double talk that is a mixture of a speech signal of a person himself and an opposite speech signal, the "*mu*" is highly altered and the filter coefficient repeats the convergence and the disturbance. It is therefore decided if the filter coefficient is updated by enabling or disabling the update control circuit with the power value of the opposite speech signal.

15   Fig. 5 is a block diagram of an echo canceler according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 5, an echo canceler 120 for cackling echo components in the limited performing time, comprises an update control selective circuit 130, a plurality of adaptive filters 122_1-122_N, a plurality of update control circuits 126_1-126_N respectively corresponding to the filters 122_1-122_N, and an echo path 124.

20   The adaptive filters 122_1-122_N calculate an echo signal after receiving an input signal X including a speech signal of a user himself or an opposite speech signal and an echo signal. Then, output signals Y_1-Y_N (that is, echo signals) of the adaptive filters 122_1-122_N are canceled from an echo-included signal D generated from the echo path 124. Opposite speech signal power values

P_1-P_N calculated from the input signal X are supplied to the update control selective circuit 130. The update control selective circuit 130 generates selective signals S_1-S_N which enable or disable the update control circuits 126_1-126_N, respectively. Filter coefficients of the filters 122_1-122_N are updated by receiving update signals from the update control circuits 126_1-126_N which generates the update signals by receiving signals E_1-E_N and the selective signals S_1-S_N. As shown in Fig. 5, the error signals E_1-E_N are correspondent with the update signals.

The subtraction circuits 128_1-128_N cancel from the echo-signal D echo signals (that is, the output signals Y_1-Y_N) of the filters 122_1-122_N, respectively. The error signals E_1-E_N obtained from the subtraction circuits 128_1-128_N, respectively, are supplied to the update control circuits 126_1-126_N, respectively. Thus, the echo canceler 120 cancels from the echo-included signal D the output signals (that is, the sum of echo components) generated from the adaptive filters, respectively.

Referring to Fig. 6, an update control circuit 126_N comprises an AND gate. When an error signal E_N and a selective signal S_N received through separate input terminals are activated, the AND gate generates an update signal.

Referring to Fig. 7, the update control selective circuit 130 generates the selective signals S_1-S_N to be used for updating the filter coefficients. That is, the update control selective circuit 130 generates the selective signals S_1-S_N for enabling or disabling the update control circuits 126_1-126_N by receiving the power values from the adaptive filters 122_1-122_N. The number of enabled selective signals S_1-S_N is decided depending upon the performing speed of the echo canceler 120.

Thus, it is possible under circumstances of long echo delay time to cancel an echo signal with the long echo delay time by using many taps and to enhance the performing speed of an

echo canceler by updating the filter coefficients.

Although various modifications may be suggested by those versed in the art, it should be understood that the present invention embodies all such modifications as reasonably and properly come within the scope of its contribution to the art.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An echo canceler, comprising:

at least one adaptive filter for extracting at least one echo signal from speech signals and

for calculating at least one power value of the speech signals;

at least one subtraction means for generating at least one error signal by subtracting the at

least one echo signal from the speech signals; and

at least one update control means for updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least

one adaptive filter in response to the at least one power value and the at least one error signal.

2.   The echo canceler of claim 1, wherein the update control means updates the filter

coefficient when the power value is larger than a threshold value of the adaptive filter.

3.   The echo canceler of claim 2, wherein the update control means comprises:

a comparator for comparing the power value and the threshold value; and

a logic circuit for receiving an output signal of the comparator and the error signal from

the subtraction means, and for generating a update signal to update the filter coefficient when the

output signal and the error signal are activated.

4.   The echo canceler of claim 1, further including an echo path for making echo

components emerged from the speech signals which is provided to the at least one subtraction

means.

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5. The echo canceler of claim 2, wherein the update control means stops updating the filter coefficient when the power value is smaller than the threshold value.

6. An echo canceler, comprising:

a plurality of adaptive filters arranged in cascade, wherein each adaptive filter receiving speech signals extracts an echo signal and generates a power value of the speech signals;

an echo path for making echo components emerged from the speech signals;

a plurality of subtraction means each for generating an error signal by subtracting the echo signal of the adaptive filter from the speech signals of the echo path; and

a plurality of update control means each for updating a filter coefficient of the adaptive filter in response to the power value from the adaptive filter and the error signal from the subtraction means.

7. An echo canceler, comprising:

at least one adaptive filter for extracting at least one echo signal from speech signals and for calculating at least one power value of the speech signals;

a selective means for generating at least one selective signal in response to the at least one power value of the speech signals;

at least one subtraction means for generating at least one error signal by subtracting the at least one echo signal from the speech signals; and

at least one update control means for updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter when the at least one selective signal provided from the selective means is activated.

8.   The echo canceler of claim 7, further including an echo path for making echo components emerged from the speech signals which is provided to the at least one subtraction means.

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9.   The echo canceler of claim 7, wherein the update control means includes a logic circuit for receiving the error signal from the subtraction means and the selective signal from the selective means, and for generating a update signal to update the filter coefficient when the error signal and the selective signal are activated.

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10.   The echo canceler of claim 7, wherein the selective means generates the at least one selective signal in response to a performing speed of the at least one adaptive filter.

11.   The echo canceler of claim 10, wherein the at least one selective signal enables
15 the at least one update control means for updating the at least one filter coefficient.

12.   A method for removing echo components from speech signals in a vocoder, comprising the steps of:

    receiving the speech signals at a plurality of adaptive filters arranged in cascade and
20 generating a plurality of echo signals extracted from the speech signals and a plurality of power values of the speech signals, respectively;

    generating a plurality of selective signals in response to the plurality of power values of the speech signals, respectively;

-17-

generating a plurality of error signals by subtracting a plurality of echo signals from the speech signals provided from an echo path; and

updating the plurality of filter coefficients of the plurality of adaptive filters, respectively, in response to the plurality of selective signals.

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13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the step of updating the filter coefficients occurs when the selective signals are activated.

Abstract of the Disclosure

An echo canceler for canceling echo components having a plurality of cascade-connected adaptive filters and a plurality of update control means. The echo canceler may further include an update control selective circuit for generating selective signals which enable or disable the update control means. Power values of opposite speech signals generated from the adaptive filters are used to control the updating of filter coefficients of the adaptive filters.

5

Fig. 1
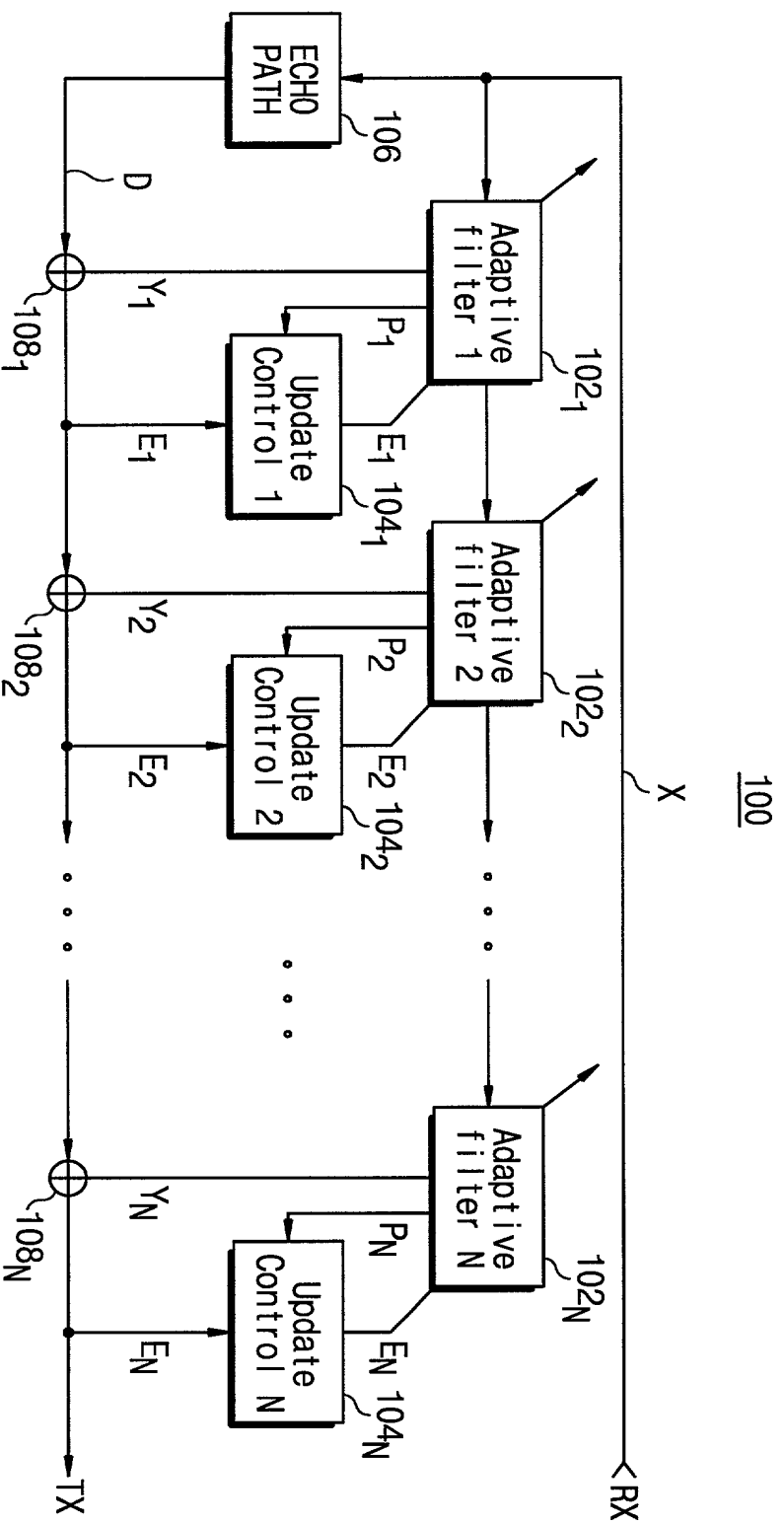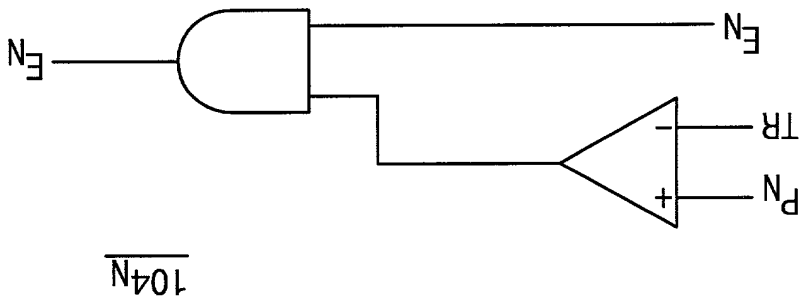
(Prior Art)

Fig. 2

(Prior Art)

<u>30</u>

Fig. 3

EN

$\overline{104N}$

EN

TR −

PN +

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

<u>126$_N$</u>

E$_N$ ———╲
S$_N$ ———╱——— E$_N$

Fig. 7

<u>130</u>

Adaptive
Filter로부터 {
P$_1$ →
P$_2$ →
P$_3$ →
⋮
P$_N$ →

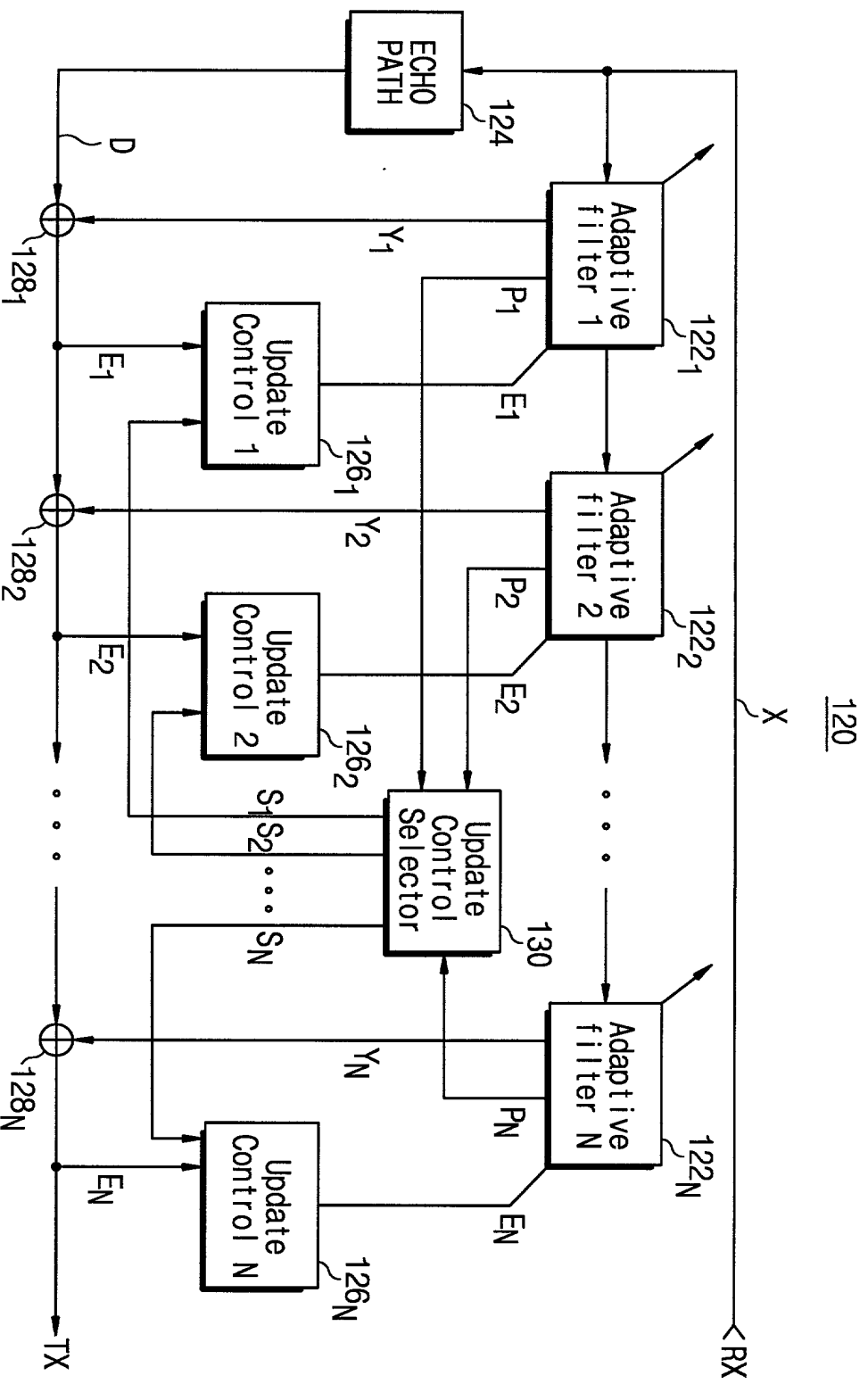| Update |
| Control |
| Selector |

→ S$_1$
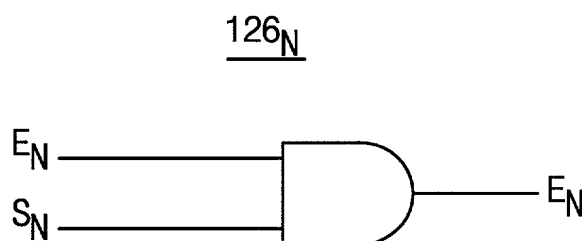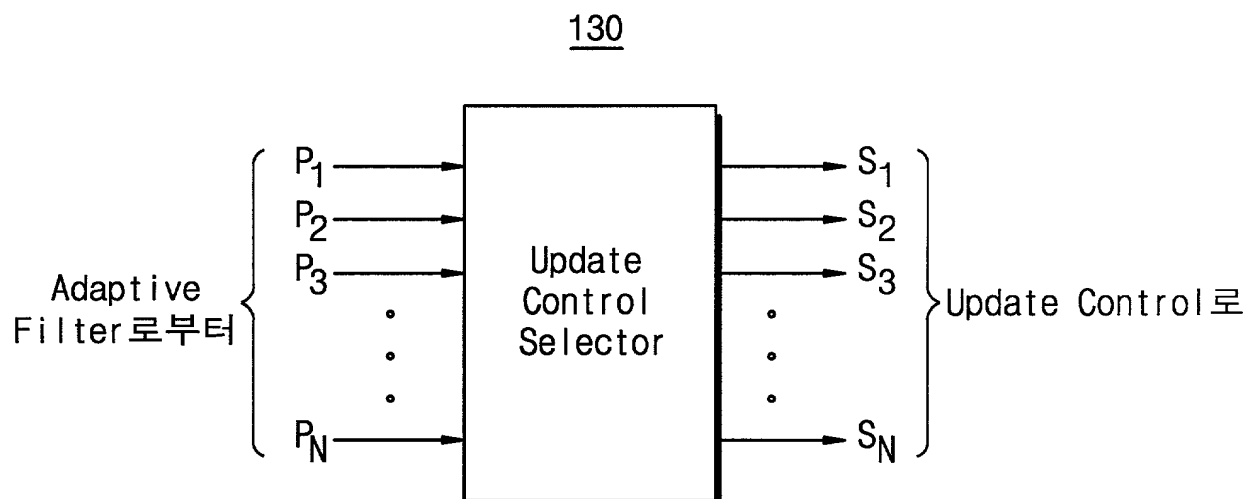→ S$_2$
→ S$_3$
⋮
→ S$_N$
} Update Control로

DECLARATION
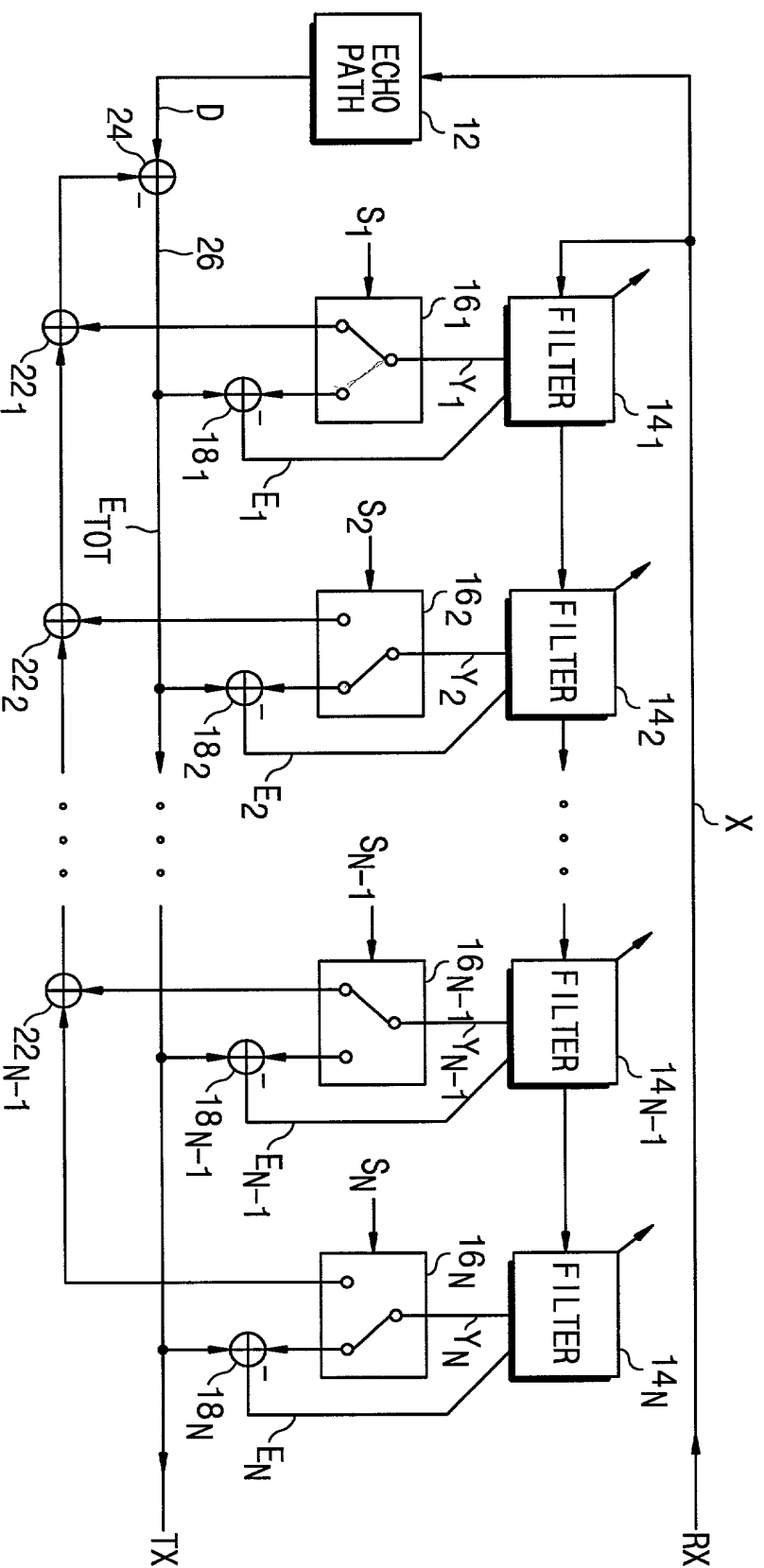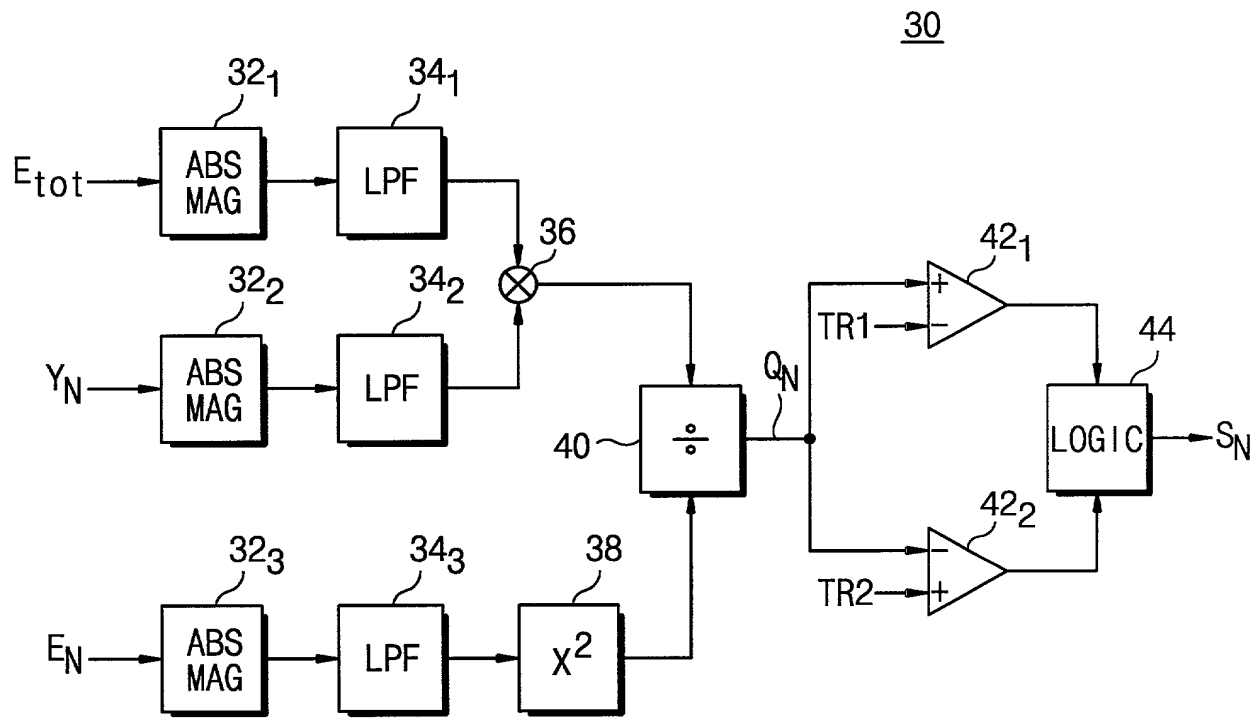
AS A BELOW NAMED INVENTOR, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole *(if only one name is listed below)*, or an original, first and joint inventor *(if plural names are listed below)*, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE: **AN APPARATUS FOR REMOVING ECHO FROM SPEECH SIGNALS WITH VARIABLE RATE**

the specification of which either is attached hereto or indicates an attorney docket no. 8836-115 (IB8154-US) , or:

☐ was filed in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on _____ and assigned Serial No. _____,

☐ and *(if applicable)* was amended on _____,

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability and to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations §1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, U.S. Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, or §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s), listed below and have also identified below any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

			Priority Claimed:
98-42803	Korea	13 October 1998	Yes [X] No [ ]
(Application Number)	*(Country)*	*(Day/Month/Year filed)*	
			Yes [ ] No [ ]
(Application Number)	*(Country)*	*(Day/Month/Year filed)*	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, U.S. Code, §120, of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of his application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, U.S. Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, The Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial Number)	*(Filing Date)*	*(STATUS: patented, pending, abandoned)*
(Application Serial Number)	*(Filing Date)*	*(STATUS: patented, pending, abandoned)*

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I HEREBY DECLARE that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 U.S. Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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FULL NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR: _____   Citizenship _____

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